

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant rewrites claims 7, 8, and 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 4 and intervening claim 5, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant cancels claims 1-6 and 9 without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 7, 8, 10, and 14 will be pending.

In the final Office Action mailed September 9, 2005, the Examiner allowed claim 14 and objected to claims 7, 8, and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 7, 8, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,438,752 to McClard ("McClard"); rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,395 to Baran ("Baran") in view of McClard and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,972 to Laubach et al. ("Laubach"); and rejected claims 5, 6, and 9 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baran in view of McClard and further in view of Laubach and U.S. Patent No. 6,226,794 to Anderson, Jr. et al. ("Anderson").¹

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 14 and for pointing out allowable subject matter in claims 7, 8, and 10. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections under both § 102 and § 103. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has rewritten claims 7, 8, and 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 4 and intervening

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

claim 5, as suggested by the Examiner, and has canceled claims 1-6 and 9. Only allowable claims 7, 8, and 10 and allowed claim 14 are pending in the present application.

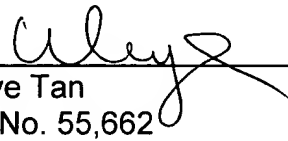
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 7, 8, 10, and 14 in condition for allowance, and a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 29, 2005

By: 
Wenye Tan
Reg. No. 55,662